

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. In the Office Action of September 25, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Leskinen, U.S. Patent 6,085,081; rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Fukuzawa et al., U.S. Patent 6,327,353 ("Fukuzawa"); rejected claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leskinen in view of Fougnyes et al., U.S. Patent 5,722,067 ("Fougnyes"); and rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leskinen in view of Fukuzawa.

In the present amendment, claims 13-18 are cancelled, making the rejections made with respect to those claims moot. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the remaining claims by the Examiner on the basis that the references, considered separately or in combination, fail to disclose certain novel features recited in the claims. New claims 19-26 are added. Reconsideration and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested in light of the remarks below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached document is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Summary of Applicants' Invention

Applicants' invention is directed to a method and apparatus for assigning telephone numbers. More specifically, the present invention discloses and claims a method and apparatus for assigning telephone numbers such that outgoing calls may be made but no incoming number is associated with a communications device or

communications line. Omitting the incoming telephone number conserves telephone numbers and restricts incoming calls.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 11-12 are Patentable over Leskinen

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Leskinen. According to the Examiner, Leskinen teaches the claimed device and method. According to the Examiner, the device disclosed in Leskinen is only for outgoing calls. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Leskinen discloses a method and apparatus for temporarily assigning a user identification to a mobile telephone user. That is, a user identification is dynamically allocated upon setting up a connection. According to the teachings of Leskinen, a mobile station is allocated a temporary user identification. That user identification is then used to place calls over the wireless network. Leskinen is completely silent on the necessity of, or application of, the assignment of temporary numbers in landline networks. Moreover, Leskinen is completely silent on whether incoming calls may be received by the mobile station using the temporary identification.

The Federal Circuit has stated, in reference to anticipation, that “[t]here must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by one of ordinary skill in the field of the invention.” *Scripps Clinic & Research Found. v. Genetech Inc.*, 927 F.2d 1565, 18 USPQ 2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991). With respect to the present invention, claims 1, 5, 9 and 11-12 are not anticipated by Leskinen, due to Leskinen’s failure to disclose the omission of an incoming number.

The examiner cites to two areas of Leskinen in support of his assertion that the Leskinen device "is only for outgoing calls." First the examiner cites to Leskinen, column 3, lines 11-15, which state: "In view of persons who seldom need a mobile station, it is also not reasonable to make a subscriber agreement, because the person should anticipate his or her possible need for making calls well in advance." Lack of a subscriber agreement does not indicate that only outgoing calls are made. Then the examiner cites to Leskinen, column 4, lines 35-39, which state: "If the SIM card is not in its place or it is defective or the data is not reasonable for another reason, it is usually not possible in known mobile communication networks to make a call from the mobile station 1, except maybe to a predetermined special number, such as the emergency number." The passages relied upon by the Examiner do not indicate that the Leskinen device only supports outgoing calls.

Moreover, other passages in Leskinen clearly indicate that while a Leskinen device is connected to the mobile network using the temporary identification, the device is afforded all services of the network, which presumably includes incoming calls. For example, in column 8, lines 59-65, Leskinen states, with respect to a mobile station connected using a temporary identification, that:

The mobile station 1 operates now like a normal mobile station that can be connected to the mobile communication network 2 in question, wherein the user of the mobile station 1 has access to those services of the mobile communication network 2 for which the teleoperator of the mobile communication network has given the access rights also to users without a user identification of their own.

In other words, once the mobile station is connected, it can be afforded normal services, which normally include incoming calls. Furthermore, Leskinen suggest that the temporary user identification is displayed to the user (column 8, lines 3-6), which implies

the user might use that , for example, in receiving incoming calls. Also, Leskinen suggest that the invention disclosed therein is analogous to public telephones, which have incoming numbers associated therewith. *See*, Leskinen, column 4, lines 6-9.

Independent claim 1 requires, among other things, "omitting association of a telephone number with the unique equipment identifier, thereby inhibiting incoming calls." Similarly, claim 11 requires a communication device "wherein no incoming call is receivable and outgoing calls are operably placed." And, independent claim 12 recites a telecommunication switch "wherein at least one of [a] plurality of lines has no assigned telephone number for receiving incoming calls and has a capability to originate outgoing calls." Leskinen does not teach or disclose these novel features. Hence, claims 1, 11 and 12 are novel and not anticipated by Leskinen. Claims 5 and 9, which ultimately depend from claim 1, are novel for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10 are Patentable

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leskinen in view of Fougnyes. And, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leskinen in view of Fukuzawa.

According to the Examiner, with respect to claims 2-4 and 6-8, Leskinen teaches the claimed device, except for assigning a currently assigned telephone number with the communications device for billing, maintenance, ANI, and calling number identification.¹ Fougnyes is cited for supplying the missing teachings. Applicant respectfully traverses

¹ There is some confusion in the Office Action as to which claims the Examiner intended to reject under section 103, due to inconsistencies in the detailed rejections made. For example, in the summary of the rejection, the Examiner mentions claims 2-4 and 6-8, but the further details include arguments with respect

the rejections on the basis that the combination of Leskinen and Fougnyes, even assuming *arguendo* that it is proper, does not teach certain novel features of the claimed invention. In particular, as discussed above, Leskinen fails to disclose preventing incoming calls, as recited in claim 1. Fougnyes does not supply this missing teaching from Leskinen.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner indicates that Leskinen discloses the claimed invention, except for initiating temporary assignment of a telephone number based on a call. The examiner uses Fukuzawa for the missing element. Applicant traverses this rejection on the basis that the combination of Leskinen and Fukuzawa, even assuming *arguendo* that the combination is proper, does not teach certain novel features of the claimed invention. In particular, as discussed above, Leskinen fails to disclose preventing incoming calls, as recited in claim 1. Fukuzawa does not supply this missing teaching from Leskinen. Indeed, Fukuzawa clearly anticipates that incoming calls will be received. *See*, Fukuzawa, Abstract, lines 9-16.

Therefore, claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10, all of which ultimately depend from claim 1 are novel and not obvious in view of the cited art, at least for the reasons given above for claim 1.

New Claims 19-26 are Patentable

New independent claim 19 is similar to claim 1, except that claim 19 is directed only to a communications line, that is, landline communications, rather than a communications device, such as a wireless telephone. More specifically, claim 19 requires the omission of association of a telephone number with a communications line.

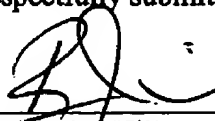
to claims 3, 7 and 10 only. Applicant has attempted to address all the arguments apparently contemplated by the Office Action.

This inhibits incoming calls to the communications line. As discussed above, Leskinen is not at all directed towards landline communications. Moreover, Leskinen does not disclose, teach or suggest the omission of an incoming telephone number to conserve telephone numbers. Claims 20-26 depend from claim 19 and include other novel features. Hence, claims 20-26 are patentable for at least the reasons given above for claim 19.

CONCLUSION

All claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**In the Claims:**

New claims 19-26 are added:

19. A method for assigning a telephone number to a communications line comprising the steps of:

- A) assigning a unique equipment identifier to the communications line;
- B) associating the unique equipment identifier with a telecommunications network such that an outgoing call may be originated from the communications line that has the unique equipment identifier; and
- C) omitting association of a telephone number with the unique equipment identifier to inhibit incoming calls to the communications line by lack of a telephone number being associated therewith.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of :

- D) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line for billing.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:

- E) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line for maintenance on the communications line.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

F) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line for automatic number identification.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of:

G) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line for purposes other than receiving an incoming telephone call.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of:

H) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line for calling number identification.

25. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:

D) temporarily assigning an unassigned telephone number to the communications line in response to a request for a temporary telephone number

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the request for a temporary telephone number is initiated by a telephone call.

Claims 13-18 are cancelled.